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CAERLEON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1956.

- by -

EVELYN D. OWEN.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

- including -

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

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CAERLEON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

For the Year Ended 31st December, 1956. Caerleon.

To the Chairman and Members of the Caerleon Urban District Council.

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the District. It is drawn up according to the directions of the Ministry of Health and includes the report of the Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres).	3183
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1956.	3990
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1956) according to Rate Book.	966
Rateable Value.	£36,575.
Sum represented by 1d. Rate.	£140.

The figure for the estimated population shows very little change from the previous year when it was 3980. Included in the estimate is a figure somewhere between 450 and 500 for the patients and resident staff at the St. Cadoc's Hospital. As this is a highly specialized population allowance is made for it in the statistical tables by the comparability factors as explained later in this report.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births.			
Total.	26	27	53
Legitimate.	26	27	53
Illegitimate.	0	0	0

Stillbirths. There were no stillbirths.

Live Birth Rate for the year, per 1,000 population.....	13.41
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1956 per 1,000 population.	15.7
Live Birth Rate for Monmouthshire for 1956 per 1,000 population..	16.76
Stillbirth Rate for Monmouthshire for 1956 per 1,000 population.....	.51
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths.....	Nil.
For Monmouthshire.....	29.7
For England and Wales.....	23.0

The number of deaths in the area during 1956 was as follows:-

Male.	Female.	Total.
45	58	103

Death Rate per 1,000 population.....	13.93
Death Rate for England and Wales, 1956.....	11.7
Death Rate for Monmouthshire, 1956.....	11.96

	Male.	Female.
Tuberculosis. Respiratory.....	0	1
Tuberculosis. Other.....	0	0
Cancer.....	5	8
Leukaemia.....	0	0
Diabetes.....	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	0	6
Coronary disease, angina.....	8	5
Hypertension with heart disease.....	1	0
Other heart disease.....	18	16
Other circulatory diseases.....	6	11
Influenza.....	0	0
Pneumonia.....	2	0
Bronchitis.....	2	0
Other disease of respiratory system.....	0	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	0	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	1	0
Nephritis and nephrosis.....	0	2
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion.....	0	1
Congenital malformation.....	0	0
Other diseases.....	2	8
Accidents.....	0	0
Suicide and homicide.....	0	0
	45	58

In the figures given in the foregoing tables the comparability factors for the district as supplied by the Registrar General (1.01 for births and .54 for deaths) have been used.

These factors take into account the way the population of the area is constituted by age, sex, etc, and are used to adjust the crude rates given by the actual numbers of births and deaths to obtain corrected rates which can then be compared with those of other areas and of the country as a whole.

Out of the total 103 deaths 53 occurred in St. Cadoc's Hospital of patients whose residence before entering the hospital was not in Caerleon.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There was one maternal death associated with pregnancy and childbirth.

Maternal mortality per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.	18.86
for England and Wales.....	0.56
for Monmouthshire.....	1.07

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age..... 1

Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births.....	18.86
For Monmouthshire.....	28.96
For England and Wales.....	23.8

NEONATAL MORTALITY.

Death Rate per 1,000 associated live births of infants under 4 weeks of age.....	18.86
In Monmouthshire.....	19.92
In England and Wales.....	16.9

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47.

Removal of Persons in need of care and attention.

Action was taken in one case under this section during the year. This was the first time it had been found necessary to do so since the inception of the Act. An old man was living in a loft which was difficult of access. He had become crippled and was no longer able to look after himself. There was considerable danger of fire and both the man and the premises were in a very dirty and neglected condition. Snow fell the day the man was removed and a period of very severe wintry weather followed.

When he was visited in Regent House, Chepstow later in the year he was in much better health, had settled down well and was happy in his changed circumstances.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:-
The staff consisted of:-

(a) Medical Officer of Health: who is also Medical Officer of Health for the Cwmbran U.D.C. and Area Medical Officer for the No. 8 Health Area of Monmouthshire County Council.

(b) Surveyor and Public Health Inspector: J.H.M. Jolliffe, A.M.I.S.E., A.M.I.B.E., C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

Committees concerned with Public Health matters are.

Public Health Committee. General control and advisory function.
Works Committee. Sewerage, Sewage Disposal, Refuse Collection and Disposal and all construction items.
Recreation Committee. Open Spaces and Cemetery.
Council. Housing.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Public Cleansing. A weekly collection is made of both domestic and trade refuse. One refuse freighter is used and three days are required to cover the service. The refuse is disposed by tipping. During the year the S.D. Freighter was replaced by a new Karrier Bantam vehicle which speeded up the collection and saved having to use an additional lorry on one day of each week. At the beginning of the year the Usk Road Tip was levelled to enable its life to be prolonged but for the majority of the year all the refuse had to be disposed at the Christchurch Tip. The Usk Road Tip is now closed and at the close of the year arrangements were being finalised to purchase ground to establish a new tip on the Ponthir Road. This would enable two tips to be operated with consequent saving in haulage costs. Both tips were well maintained and treatments were carried out to reduce flies and rodents. In fact for the major part of the year both tips were completely rat free.

Smoke Nuisance. Although there are no industries in the area which cause major atmospheric pollution, trouble was being experienced from the boiler house chimney of a local hospital. Negotiations were in progress to secure the installation of modern boiler house plant to reduce this smoke nuisance.

Schools. The water supply and sanitary circumstances of the schools continue to remain satisfactory.

Rivers and Streams. Pollution prevention is under the control of the Usk River Board.

Water Supplies. The continued restrictions of capital expenditure prevented any scheme being operated to extend piped water supplies to the outlying areas at Pillmawr and Catsash. Newport Corporation are the statutory water undertakers for the whole of the area and no samples were taken in view of satisfactory arrangements existing between the two authorities. The water supplied is not plumbo-solvent.

Cemetery. Although the number of interments continues to be small, and the majority are from the St. Cadoc's Hospital, the need for this cemetery is well proved. I am pleased to note the high standard of maintenance and the well kept appearance of the Cold Bath Road Cemetery is spite of labour difficulties.

Swimming Baths and Pools. There is one open air lido in the district which is privately owned. The very poor season resulted in very little use being made of it and in consequence no water samples were taken. The pool was only open for about two-thirds of its normal season.

Rodent Control. One part-time operator is employed and the degree of infestation is not high.

Recreation Facilities. The Council provide a wide range of recreational facilities. At Cold Bath Road provision is made for bowls, cricket, football, tennis and other outdoor sports. A children's playing field is provided complete with the usual equipment. Equipped playing fields for children are also provided at Ponthir and Ultra Pontem. In addition to these facilities, a further eighty acres of open space are available. Of this latter area six acres have been levelled ready to receive seed in the spring of 1957 and this extended area will provide two full sized football pitches and a full sized cricket ground. It is proposed to complete the scheme by building a new comprehensive pavilion. The open spaces include the small open space in the centre of the Town known locally as Goldcroft Common. Adjoining the Town Hall and Legionary Museum are two set gardens to which persons may resort. The former especially provides a place where elderly people can sit quietly.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal. There are now three sewage outfalls within the urban district and of these two discharge untreated sewage into rivers. The first is at a point near Caerleon Bridge where the River Usk is tidal and the second is about 200 yards above the tidal point of the Avon Llwydd. The third outfall is at Christchurch where a small private sewage works was adopted by the Council in 1955. This is a new plant and is working satisfactorily. The drainage from the Coldra area flows into the Hartridge Farm Works operated by Newport Corporation. There is one area - Ultra Pontem - which has about ninety properties and is unsewered. The low lying nature of the area, the poor condition of the properties and an embargo on development by the County Development Plan renders sewering of this area an uneconomical proposition. To serve this area and other unsewered premises the Council provide a cesspool emptying service and two servicings are given free of charge each year. A scheme to serve the northern area, where possible development can take place, is in the hands of a firm of consulting engineers. This will be a joint scheme with the Hospital Authorities.

Mortuary Service. To make way for housing development it was proposed during the year to demolish the mortuary buildings. A scheme was drawn up by the Council's Engineer/Surveyor for the provision of a new mortuary on another more suitable site. Although attempts to formulate a shared mortuary service with neighbouring authorities did not produce any definite results, it was regretted the Council did not proceed with this scheme. This means, that when the present building is demolished, there will be no mortuary in Caerleon. Notwithstanding the fact that the mortuary was not extensively used, it is most desirable that such a service be provided in the area.

Factories. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector) under the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

	Numbers on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	15	16	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	1	1	-
Total	16	17	-

No defects were found

There were no outworkers in the district.

Housing. During the year the Council's housing programme made little progress and no Council houses were erected. However, at the close of the year a contract had been let for twenty-eight houses at the Lodge Site, but this was not in progress when the year ended due to a dispute over increase in petrol prices. Also at the end of the year a contract was being finalised for sixteen houses within the town area to replace unfit dwellings and form the basis of the slum clearance programme. Good progress in the slum clearance programme was made by the declaration of a clearance area comprising six houses. One house adjoining the area was also acquired with the six houses within the area. Thus positive progress in slum clearance and redevelopment is most encouraging and the use of cleared sites saves encroaching upon agricultural land for housing development. The Council operate the Improvement Grant sections of the Housing Acts and two grants were made during the year. Of these one house which might have been the result of demolition order proceedings within the next few years was made more habitable and provides a small compact dwelling at moderate cost. House construction continues to remain slow even in the field of private development, the Council's private development site making no progress during the year. Land for housing development is very limited within the urban area and the only site which can be used is rapidly filling up. The need for suitable land for housing development, particularly by private persons is most urgent.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

(1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

1.(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	21.
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	42.
2.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	11.
3.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under 2) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	8.

(2) Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority, or its officers.	4.

(3) Action under Statutory Powers.

1. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	-
(b)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice.	-

2. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	2.
(b)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice.	2.

3. Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Acts, 1936.

(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	1.
(b)	Number of dwelling houses which were demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	-
(c)	Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were given.	1.

Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(a) Number of separate tenements or under ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. Nil.

(b) Number of separate tenements or under ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. Nil.

	Temporary.	Perm. Non. Trad.	Traditional Houses.
Number of houses owned by Local Authority on 31.12.56.	50	82	96
Number of Local Authority houses in course of erection on the 31.12.56.	-	-	-
Total number of houses erected during the year.	-	-	-
By Local Authority.	-	-	-
By Private Enterprise.	-	-	13

Number of houses under construction by Private Enterprise but not completed on 31.12.56..... 4

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food Premises. The number and type of food premises are:-

Grocers and Provision Merchants.....	11
Confectioners.....	2
Butchers.....	2
Bakehouses.....	1
Catering Establishments.....	3
Greengrocers and Fishmongers.....	2
Fish and Chip Shops.....	1
Chemists.....	2
	24

Of the foregoing, the following are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Sale of Ice-cream..... 6
Manufacture of sausage..... 2

The food premises are satisfactory, no serious defect being noted. A total of thirtyfive inspections of food premises were made. Fifteen persons are registered for the sale of milk.

There is no slaughterhouse establishment in the district. Very small quantities of unsound food are condemned during the year. The Council collect the food surrendered and dispose of it by burial in the tip.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1956.

Age Period.	New Cases. Resp. M.	Resp. F.	Non.Resp. M.	Non.Resp. F.	Deaths. M.	Deaths. F.
0 - 1 years.	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 "	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -10 "	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-15 "	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-20 "	-	1	-	-	-	-
20-25 "	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35 "	-	-	-	-	-	1
35-45 "	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55 "	-	-	-	-	-	-
60and up.	-	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	-	2	-	-	-	1

In addition to these 2 new cases,-1 other a female- was notified as an inward transfer from another area.

The one death was of a patient in St. Cadoc's Hospital.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1956.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Small Pox.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	5	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever.	-	-	-
Paratyphoid.	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	6 *	-	-
Pneumonia.	1	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
Measles.	9	-	-
Dysentery.	1	-	-
Whooping Cough.	5	-	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	-	-	-

* Occurred in hospital.

CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Diphtheria and Acute Poliomyelitis. There were no cases of either of these diseases.

There was no outbreak of any infectious disease during the year. Only a few sporadic cases occurred so that the total number for the year was very small.

Immunisation and Vaccination. These were carried out at the County Council Infant Welfare Clinics and in the general practioners' Surgeries.

32 children received the primary course of injections against diphtheria and 7 were given booster doses.

30 people were vaccinated during the year, 25 being children under 15 years of age. In addition 3 people over 15 years of age were re-vaccinated.

These numbers are nearly double those of the previous year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

EVELYN D. OWEN.

Medical Officer of Health.